

## Amendments to Claims

- 15, 16. (Cancelled)
17. (Original) A fuel cell, comprising:  
an anode support plate and a cathode support plate and a membrane electrode assembly disposed between said anode and cathode support plates, said membrane electrode assembly comprising a polymer electrolyte membrane, at least one of said support plates comprising a hydrophilic substrate layer having pores therein;  
a water transport plate adjacent to each said hydrophilic substrate layer, said water transport plate having a passageway for a coolant stream and another passageway for a reactant gas stream; and  
each said at least one support plate comprising a partially hydrophobic bilayer disposed between said hydrophilic substrate layer and said membrane electrode assembly.
18. (Original) A fuel cell according to claim 17 wherein:  
said bilayer includes 50% to 80% by volume of hydrophobic phase material, and between 50% and 20% by volume of hydrophilic phase material.
19. (Original) A fuel cell, comprising:  
an anode support plate and a cathode support plate and a membrane electrode assembly disposed between said anode and cathode support plates, said membrane electrode assembly comprising a polymer electrolyte membrane, at least one of said support plates comprising a hydrophilic substrate layer having pores therein;  
a water transport plate adjacent to each said hydrophilic substrate layer, each said water transport plate having a passageway for a coolant stream and another passageway for a reactant gas stream; and  
each said one substrate layer having a porosity of between 65% and 75%.
- 20, 21. (Cancelled)